

THE DEAD NOVELIST.

Estimate of the Character of
Robert Louis Stevenson.

A LONDON WRITER'S DESCRIPTION

Of His Personality—"A Wild, Dainty, Unearthly Creature" Was the Author of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." How He Won the Hearts of Men and Women.

At the time Mr. Stevenson purchased his estate in Samoa, a writer in the London Hawk, over the signature of "John o' Dreams," gave the following fascinating gossip of what he was pleased to term a "wild, dainty, unearthly creature." "The fact is," he says, "that Stevenson's literary work is a mere exorcism on a remarkable personality—if a personality may bear an exorcism—and the man is so much above literature that some who know him do not reckon his books at all; while others confuse him with his books. What a pity it is we cannot give a proper picture of a man like Stevenson. No living creature could say an ill word of him; every man that ever saw him loved him from the first time of meeting, and I believe that the only beings created by God who did not feel drawn to him were those dreadful, proper women, who could not understand the strangest bantling that ever Mother Nature nursed for her very own."

"In all my life I have never seen a fellow who has such a gift of attracting attention, and the queer thing is that the affection once attracted always remains with him, so that he has never lost a friend nor made an enemy. Moreover, by some marvellous sleight, it happens that in whatever company he is placed he becomes first, and that, too, without any effort. As soon as he opens his mouth something falls from which forces you to heed him, and the intense charm of the talk is so moving that most men do not care to check the magic of it by interpolating words of their own; so that at one time I fear that Master Louis was acquiring a trick of monologue which gained upon him; but it did not matter; there is no man whom I ever knew who would not be very content to let Stevenson pour out his indescribably beautiful thought. I know that if I had the blessed luck to get the chance of another day's chat with him, and he had the fancy to go at it in monologue for a dozen hours, I should take precious good care to keep from interruption. Let me name one very singular thing: You cannot remain long in Stevenson's company without feeling like a good man. You may not be good, mark you, any more than I am, but everything that is bad in you lies low, and every power that makes for kindness, tenderness, uprightness and charity seems as if it must begin to flourish. The more I think of this the more it puzzles me, because the fellow is just about as far from being a saint as any one may be. He can be as broad as anybody, and he will sometimes emphasize his conversation with effects of blasphemy which are most broad and picturesque, yet swearing from him becomes artistically right on the instant, and everything he says seems clean and pure. A profane critic who adored Stevenson once said to me: 'The blank writes so blank well because he has a beautiful mind.' You feel that all along as the unmatched, unmatchable talker goes on."

"To see Stevenson in his most striking aspect, just let him alone in a good big room. He cannot sit still; the little, quick figure which looks as if it should be measured for a sheath instead of a suit, moves swiftly up and down like a caged creature; the velvet eyes glow with a light that seems to come really from some depth; the long hands move so as to emphasize and interpret every new point, and the lovely, picked English down on with an occasional break in the shape of bold, brutal slang. Once in the midst of the very finest burst of talk about Caesar that I ever heard, he suddenly paused, and then, in an ecstasy of literary self-appraisal, he described the eminent conqueror of Gaul as 'the howlingest cheese that ever lived.' This was quite beneath the dignity of history; but it is quite in Stevenson's way."

"Louis Stevenson abhors mathematics, yet, as the good heaven covers us, I have seen him fascinate Prof. Sylvester, the most transcendental of all mathematicians, to such a point that the excellent old man began explaining four-dimensional space to a youth who would have been flooded by a simple proportion sum. Artists, lecturers, novelists, editors, poets, politicians—all were drawn in the same mysterious fashion. With persons of low degree this astounding magnetism takes effect just as it does on learned and cultured folk."

"So this most delightful work of God fared through the world, winning the hearts of men and women, strong and weak, gentle and simple, until he was driven from England in search of warmth; and I hear he only went away to discover another continent of worshippers. Nearly all of his friends kept touch with him, and although I, personally, am too morose to see any one or speak to any one unless I am forced, yet at this day I love him with all the enthusiasm that I felt when I was a smooth-faced boy."

THE NOVELIST'S ROMANCE.

How the Late Robert Louis Stevenson Obtained His Wife.

The story is told by one who professed to know how Stevenson got his wife. "In 1855, I, a young man, became intimately acquainted with Samuel C. Osborne, who was then private secretary to Governor Willard, of Indiana. Osborne was a magnificent fellow in personal appearance and magnetism. He was versatile, scholarly, witty, quick as the lightning's flash in repartee, and a fine musician. That man could draw sweeter tones from a flute than any man I ever knew. Well, in 1858, Osborne married a black-eyed Miss Vandergilt; she was not beautiful by any means, but rather attractive. At that time he was in the office of the reporter of the supreme court, of Indiana, and was making good money."

"In 1861 James B. Beach, reporter of the supreme court, and Osborne, both of whom had saved up a few thousands of dollars, started for Arizona. Sam had his wife and two children—a boy and a girl—and he took them along. Arrived in Arizona, Beach and Osborne bought a mine with their savings, and in about a month were offered \$100,000 in cash for their bonanza. Beach wanted to build on for a larger offer, and inside of weeks they could not sell it for a dollar. Osborne headed for San Francisco and reached the Golden Gate with \$7 in his pocket. He knew a good deal of law, and was a good stenographer—one of the latest in the country at that time. This accomplishment stood him in hand, for he was soon making lots of

money, and, sometimes, he used to write to me, he would get \$1,000 for reporting a single case. As years went on, the daughter and son grew up, and were sent abroad to finish their education. The son went to England and the daughter to France. The mother went to Europe and spent a season or two with them."

"The last time Mrs. Osborne went over was in 1883, and then she met Robert Louis Stevenson—I believe it was in Paris. She at once wrote back to her husband, and told of meeting the literary genius, and told of an affection she had formed for him. Osborne evidently thought this more than a merely platonic affection, and I guess had good reason to think so, for he wrote her that if she loved Stevenson to come back to Frisco and obtain a divorce. She did this, and as soon as the divorce was granted, the invitations for her marriage to Robert Louis Stevenson were sent out. The bridegroom was in town during the divorce proceedings. Osborne was invited to the wedding and accepted. He appeared on that evening dressed faultlessly, and having on his arm a lady of rare beauty."

The wedding over, the new Mrs. Stevenson introduced her husband to her former one, and Osborne in turn represented the lady on his arm as Mrs. Samuel C. Osborne. He had been married quietly to her as soon as the divorce was granted. Osborne would make no outward sign, but the episode broke his heart. He went to Australia, and Stevenson to Samoa. I have never heard from Osborne since. The places and men that knew him, know him no more, and I do not know whether he is living or dead."

AWFUL EXPLOSION.

Five Persons Instantly Killed and Several Others Injured.

WEST BAY CITY, Mich., Dec. 18.—By an explosion of the boiler in Russell Bros.' planing mill and box factory this morning five persons were instantly killed, several others were injured and one is missing. The dead are:

John Calcutt, fireman, aged twenty-one.
George Fland, aged seventeen.
Albert Rahn, aged sixteen.
John Brann, aged fifteen.

Al. Heavensbacher, aged seventeen. The injured:

Fred Wildanger, leg bruised.
Charles Dodge, back injured.
Roy Hudson, face badly cut.

One boy is still missing and is believed to be buried in the debris. The explosion occurred while the mill was shut down for a few moments, the boys flocking to the engine room to eat lunch.

All the bodies were terribly mutilated and almost unrecognizable. The cause of the explosion has not been determined.

A Society Sensation.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 18.—Toledo society is shaken to its centre by a breach of promise suit, the damages being laid at \$75,000, brought by Miss Lucy M. Gruber against Roswell B. Messinger. She alleges the engagement of marriage was made on January 8, 1893.

The plaintiff is a handsome young lady of twenty-two, of excellent family. Mr. Messinger was recently appointed county treasurer, and by the death of Calvin Bronson, his grandfather, he recently became heir to \$100,000 of valuable real estate in the business section of the city. This event occurred since his engagement, and it is hinted that his altered worldly prospects led to the estrangement.

Only a Slight Breeze.

DENVER, COLO., Dec. 18.—Reports of a falling out between Burns and Holman, the English labor leaders and delegates from the British Trades congress, are exaggerations. Holmes has expressed himself concerning the freedom with which Burns has been criticizing American institutions and American conditions on short acquaintance and has said that he thought his brother delegate delivered himself of his opinions a little too soon. Beyond this difference, there has been no rupture.

Chinese Opium Smuggler.

TACOMA, WASH., Dec. 18.—For several years large quantities of smuggled opium have been sent through Tacoma by express bearing "sweated" stamps. Within thirty days Customs Inspector B. F. Jossey has confiscated eighty pounds of opium going through by express, the cans bearing sweated stamps. Ah Hing, of Port Townsend, was arrested and acknowledged making the shipment. He was held for trial. The officials expect to break up the traffic.

Verdict for the Defendant.

STEVENSVILLE, O., Dec. 18.—The case brought in the United States district court at Columbus by Immigrant Inspector H. E. Alexander against the Steubenville Pottery Company officials for alleged violation of the alien contract labor law, resulted in a verdict for the defendant to-day. No case was made by the prosecution.

Dr. Buchanan's Case.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The case of Dr. Buchanan, of New York, convicted of poisoning his wife, which was to have been argued before the court of appeals to-day has been put over until the January term. The adjournment will be of much advantage to the defense, for under the new rules of the court, counsel must exchange briefs and an opportunity will be afforded of seeing the plans of the prosecution.

Sentenced for Hazing.

CARLEISLE, Pa., Dec. 18.—Six students were to-day suspended from Dickinson college for one month each for hazing. A few days ago the students entered the room of a fellow student, cut his hair and poured stale beer on his head. The hazed student made no complaint, but the faculty in some way heard of the hazing and took action to-day.

Gettysburg Battle Field.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.—The house committee on military affairs to-day agreed to a favorable report on the bill establishing a national military park at Gettysburg, Pa., and appropriating \$100,000 therefor. The committee also agreed to the transfer of the military prison at Fort Leavenworth to the control of the department of justice.

Will Prosecute Liebknecht.

BERLIN, Dec. 18.—The Prussian Diet has been summoned to meet on January 8. The government intends after the close of the session, to prosecute Herr Liebknecht, the Socialist member of the Reichstag who took such a prominent part in the demonstration against the emperor upon the occasion of the opening of the Reichstag.

General Banks' Widow.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.—The committee on invalid pensions of the house to-day agreed on a bill granting a pension of \$100 monthly to Mary Palmer Banks, widow of the late Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks.

THEY MAY STRIKE.

Miners of the Pittsburgh District Indignant Over the Proposed Reduction.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 18.—The miners are opposed to accepting the reduction proposed by the operators at their meeting yesterday. They are also indignant that they should be asked to accept a rate of wages lower than is paid by operators employing non-union men, simply because some operators use false screens, others substitute inferior coal for the Pittsburgh fuel at the docks, and the forty-mile radius operates in favor of the thick-vein operators.

Prior to going into convention, at K. of L. hall, several of the miners' delegates spoke strongly on this subject. They claimed that some operators had told them that the meeting yesterday did not represent the sentiment of a majority of the mine owners, and that, if the miners at the fifteen mines represented at the meeting would refuse to work at the 55-cent rate, they would continue to pay the old rate.

While many of the delegates went into the convention unopposed, owing to the efforts of the operators to screen their decision until after the miners last evening elected their delegates, the announcement in the Chronicle Telegraph that the price would be reduced 14 cents on the ton reached a sufficient number of miners to enable them to protest against such a cut, and the delegates are aware of the sentiments of their constituents.

That the thick vein operators are not all desirous of a cut was shown by the conference held last night by President Cairns with Osbourne, Saeger & Co. Mr. Shields has also said that a cut will not benefit the trade, as it will not cause the operators to work their mines more steadily and the profit will go to the consumers alone. Mr. Cairns says the proposed reduction is unreasonable and uncalled for by the condition of the market.

A well known miners' leader, in discussing the allegations made against the New York and Cleveland Gas Coal Company, said that three years ago Mr. De Armit offered to pay the district price, even without the company store, if the other mine owners could be made to do so; that for six weeks, in pursuance of this promise, it did so, and then seeing that none of the other operators followed, reduced the price in conformity with the others. "It is well known," the gentleman continued, "that many operators who are claiming to have lived up to the Columbus scale have been working secretly below the rate."

At the operators' meeting yesterday resolutions were adopted asking that mining rates be put upon a mileage basis; charging dishonest practices on the part of some operators in selling an inferior coal for Pittsburgh, with the connivance of the railway companies, selling one and one-half inch coal and delivering three-quarter inch coal, and other questionable practices. It was finally resolved that the executive board, on behalf of the thin vein operators of Pennsylvania, adjust all differences now existing, and that the board be empowered to employ attorneys to assist in bringing about better conditions in the coal trade.

Poor Digestion

Leads to nervousness, fretfulness, peevishness, chronic dyspepsia and great misery. Hood's Sassaaparilla is the remedy. It tones the stomach, creates an appetite, and gives a relish to food. It makes pure blood and gives healthy action to all the organs of the body. Take Hood's for Hood's Sassaaparilla cures.

Hood's PILLS become the favorite cathartic with every one who tries them. 25c.

UMBRELLAS at B. W. HOSE'S.

FAST Colored Calico in new dark styles, finest made, at 5c.

J. S. RHODES & Co.

GENTLEMEN'S fine hand turn gore Nullifier Slippers in Wine, Tan and Black, \$1.25.

Locke's.

Change of Time on the Ohio River Railroad.

On and after December 16 trains on the Ohio river road will leave as follows, (city time): 7:20 a. m., 1:15 p. m., and 4 p. m. Arrive at 11 a. m., 2:45 p. m. and 7:45 p. m.

See our double width Wool Dress Goods, in plain and novelties, reduced to 35c, 39c and 43c.

J. S. RHODES & Co.

THE Pan-Handle Dyeing establishment, owned by John Heilmeyer, at No. 1431 Market street, is the best equipped house of its kind in Wheeling. In addition to the dyeing and cleaning departments a corps of first-class tailors are employed, who can do repairing as neat as it is possible. Clothes and ladies' garments, cleaned or dyed, can be made to look like new. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Englishman (patronizingly)—Your school faculties are excellent, I am told. American (suavely)—Well, I should say. See the Smithsonian Institution over there? Think of a building like that just to educate the Smiths!—Vogue



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.

Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.



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THE OLD RELIABLE
SWEET CAPORAL
CIGARETTE
Has stood the Test of Time
MORE SOLD THAN ALL OTHER BRANDS COMBINED

The electric thrill of health

is never felt by those who are run down—out of sorts—poor in blood—badly nourished—dyspeptic. That would be impossible, and so the delight of living is lost!

Brown's Iron Bitters

brings weak people up to the standard of health—feeds the blood—acts on the nerves—strengthens the muscles. It brings the blush of youth to weary women's cheeks—is a boon to the invalid—refreshes and renews life in the aged—nourishes the weak, puny child—briefly said, it gives strength, and strength cannot exist without perfect health. It is a necessity in every family. It does not injure the teeth or cause constipation.

It's Brown's Iron Bitters you need!

The Genuine has the Crossed Red Lines on Wrapper.

BROWN CHEMICAL CO., Baltimore, Md.

HOUSEFURNISHING GOODS.

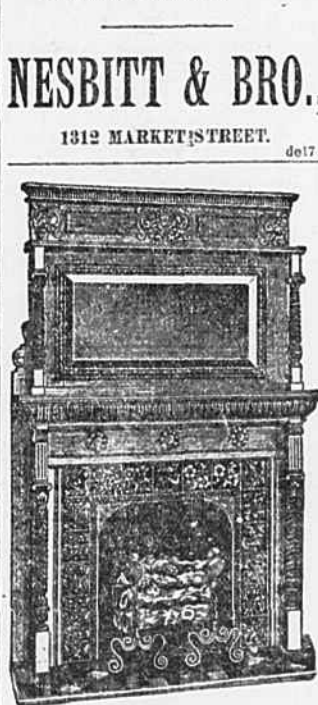
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—PURE ALUMINUM—

Cooking Utensils.

Will not burn or scorch their contents. There is nothing to chip off. Will not rust or corrode. Cannot break or crack. They are pure as gold. As clean as silver. And practically everlasting.

NESBITT & BRO.,
1312 MARKET STREET.



Wood and Slate Mantels!
STEEL RANGES.

B.F. Caldwell & Co.,
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We are Agents for the Celebrated
Elwood Gas Stoves and Radiators!

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GEORGE W. JOHNSON'S SONS,
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POTTS' PREMIUM PROBLEM.

CUT THIS OUT.

Fifty premiums free to people who cut this out and solve the problem. The following article will be given in the order named to the first fifty persons who bring the correct answer, signed with their name and address.

Take the articles of each of the following items and figure the percent saved by dealing with Potts:

	POTTS' PRICE.	USUAL PRICE.		POTTS' PRICE.	USUAL PRICE.
All Package Coffee.....	20c	22c	Almonds, per pound.....	15c	20c
Standard Tomatoes, per can.....	7c	9c	Leader Soap, per bar.....	2c	5c
Sugar Corn, per can.....	7c	10c	Lenox Soap, per bar.....	3c	5c
Choice Peas, per can.....	6c	8c	Palm Soap, double bar.....	7c	10c
String Beans, per can.....	6c	8c	Potermilk Soap, per cake.....	7c	10c
Table Peaches, per can.....	15c	20c	Perfumed Soap, per cake.....	2c	5c
Baking Powder, per pound.....	9c	15c	Sewing Machine Oil.....	4c	8c
Grain Pepper, per pound.....	9c	15c	Mucilage, per bottle.....	4c	5c
Ground Cinnamon, per lb.....	9c	25c	Shoe Blacking.....	1c	3c
Ground Mustard, per pound.....	9c	20c	Shoe Brushes.....	9c	15c
Ground Pepper, per pound.....	9c	18c	Razor Straps.....	10c	20c
Ground Ginger, per pound.....	9c	20c	Hand Saw Files.....	4c	8c
Green Tea, per pound.....	20c	40c	Butcher Knives.....	9c	15c
Black Tea, per pound.....	20c	40c	Table Spoons, per set.....	6c	12c
Evaporated Apples, per lb.....	10c	13c	Tea Spoons, per set.....	4c	8c
Evaporated Peaches, per lb.....	11c	15c	Dish Pans.....	9c	15c
Ketchup, per bottle.....	5c	9c	Thermometers.....	5c	10c
Crown Raisins, per pound.....	5c	8c	Carpet Tacks, per box.....	1c	2c
Chocolate Cream Drops, per lb.....	40c	80c	Men's Suspenders.....	9c	15c
Cream Bon Bons, per lb.....	10c	15c	Men's Overshirts.....	15c	25c
Fancy Mixed Candy, per lb.....	7c	10c	Stationary Packages.....	10c	20c
New Dates, per pound.....	7c	10c	One Dozen Lead Pencils.....	8c	10c
New Mixed Nuts, per lb.....	10c	15c	Box Paperies.....	8c	12c
Cream Nuts, per pound.....	9c	13c	Spool Thread.....	1c	8c
English Walnuts, per lb.....	13c	18c	Six Steel Pens.....	1c	5c

EVERYBODY FIGURE.

We want every man, woman and child within one hundred miles of Wheeling to know how much we can save them.

Not much at a time, you say. Yes, it is only a little here and a little there, but the result will raise the hair on your head. Try it. If you can't solve it yourself get somebody to show you. Figures won't lie. We don't want you to do it for the premium we give, but to open your eyes, and to open them wide, too. We want the man with a small family of five that don't know where he is going to get bread to-morrow to know just what he is doing and where the money is gone. We propose to show him for his benefit that instead of paying rent he might own the home in which he lives and with the money saved by buying right. We place these figures on plain as A, B, C, without exaggeration and the prices are just what you pay. Look over them carefully. See the small amounts we save you on each item, and when you solve the percentage against you your little child will be able to tell you what to do in the future.

It is said the percentage against the Faro player is less than 3 per cent. It looks innocent and harmless, but let it alone. It will not hurt you if you let it alone, but if you play with it your chances will be about the same you would have with a Royal Bengal Tiger.

If this is true with only 3 per cent against you how do you suppose you can stand over twenty times three, or how would you like to be locked in a cage with over seventy Royal Bengal Tigers?

We await your answer.

E. B. POTTS,

MAIN AND TENTH STREETS, WHEELING, W. VA.

DRESS GOODS—J. S. R. & CO.

SPECIAL SALE OF

Dress Goods!

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Double width All-Wool Dress Goods, in plain colors and novelties, this season's styles, at 35, 39 and 43c a yard. Hundreds of styles to select from.

All our finer Dress Goods, in black and colors, at reduced prices.

Priestly Silk Warp Henriettes marked down for this sale.

J. S. Rhodes & Co.

REAL ESTATE.
Suburban Property for Sale!

—BUY NOW—

\$800.00 buys a choice lot; fronts on the National Pike, at Leatherwood, with water, cess sewerage, sidewalk, and only a minute's walk to the motor, for a few days only.

\$600 buys a lot 6x135; one of the choice lots at Altenheim; corners on two streets; one-third cash and the balance on time.

\$200 buys a lot, with one acre of ground at \$2,000, near the Park; new house; dirt cheap.

Fine residence at Pleasant Valley; 9 rooms in house; large grounds, with beautiful shade trees, at \$8,500.

Residence at Leatherwood, with all conveniences, cheap on easy terms.

Refined place near Elm Grove, fine house, fine shade and fruit trees, has acres of land, and in walking distance from the motor railroad; possession at once.

Good water, large barn, house of 9 rooms, all hard wood finish, at a big bargain, 25 acres of bottom land.

Fine building lots on the motor line; buy now! 175 at \$300 each, for a short time only; buy now and get the benefit of the advance in the summer.

ROLF & ZANE,
No. 42 FOURTEENTH STREET.

FOR SALE.

Business property in central part of city that will pay a handsome income as an investment. Four-roomed brick, with good stable on Market street, between Eighth and Ninth; splendid location; low price.

Seven roomed house, 37 South Penn street; desirable location. Price, \$3,750.

Eight roomed house, with three roomed tenement house in rear; full lot 60x120 in good rearment house in rear; full lot is worth \$3,000 without pair, for \$1,000. This lot is worth \$3,000 without pair, for \$1,000. This lot is worth \$3,000 without pair, for \$1,000.

REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE.

House, 6 rooms; large stable and 3 lots. Particular addition to East Wheeling. Will sell part or all cheap.

House, 3 rooms, lot 25x100 feet, Lind street. Belvedere, very early terms, \$750.

House, 7 rooms, brick, Main st., 5th ward, \$2,650. House, 4 rooms, brick, Jacob street, 4th ward, \$1,800.

House, 5 rooms and hall, Park View, lot 100x175 feet, early terms, \$1,750.

House, 5 rooms, 27th st., lot 25x100 street, \$1,700. Double house, 10 rooms, Indiana street, Island, early terms, \$2,500.

House, 6 rooms, South Huron street, Island, with large lot, \$2,300.